



1-1-1895

The Venetian Republic in its External Relations

Georgia Noble Galvin
Butler University

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.butler.edu/mantheses>



Part of the [European History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Galvin, Georgia Noble, "The Venetian Republic in its External Relations" (1895). *Manuscript Thesis Collection*. Paper 58.

This Thesis is brought to you for free and open access by the Manuscript Thesis Collection at Digital Commons @ Butler University. It has been accepted for inclusion in Manuscript Thesis Collection by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Butler University. For more information, please contact fgaede@butler.edu.

Georgia Noble Galvin,

1895—

1.

The Venetian Republic in its
External Relations.

The city of Venice owes its long course of uninterrupted independence almost entirely to its peculiar situation on the islands on the shores of the Adriatic. The waters on which it was built, and by which it is surrounded, saved it many times from invasion and ruin. The same circumstance also turned the thoughts of the Venetians to commerce, and made their city the chief commercial port of Europe for many years. Her navy was long superior to that of any other state or country, and Venice justly called herself the bride of the Adriatic.

The exact origin of Veneti is not known. They were first heard of as inhabiting a district of the Cisalpine Republic, and very early became allies of Rome and a part of the Roman empire. In 400 they bravely withstood an attack by the Goths under Alaric, and when in 409 Attila with his Huns ravaged their country, they were forced to emigrate

To the islands on the shores of the Adriatic, where they settled and made Rialto their capital. In 665 the Lombard invasion forced the earlier invaders to the islands and along with them the citizens of Altino and Padua.

In 697 a Doge or Duke was appointed assisted by a council of state to take the place of the Tribune and General Assembly. In 731 the people tired of the Doges, whose power was almost unlimited, and the highest officer became the *Maestro della Birigia*, his term of office lasting only a year. The Doges were restored in 742 - but for the next three centuries were deposed, tortured or killed at the caprice of the people.

In 804 Pepin, King of Lombardy, was called to Venice by the people to assist them in a struggle against their Doge. But the ambitious ruler wished only to further his own interests, and the Venetians were finally obliged to fly to Rialto, where he could not reach them. 809 or 810 is commonly considered the date of the birth of Venice, during the dogeship of the wise Angelo Partecipazio.

In 827 the bones of St. Mark were brought to Venice from Alexandria, and the lion of St. Mark emblazoned on the standards. From that day St. Mark was the patron saint of Venice, and the city became "Diva San Marco."

In these four or five centuries Venice had grown greatly in power and thirsted for extensive commerce. In 991 Doge Ursulo II brought Venice into command of several ports and rivers and obtained many privileges from the Greek Emperor and the good will of the sultans of Syria and Egypt. Long before this time Venice was considered the Emporium not only of Italy, but of Greece and all the countries bordering on the Adriatic and monopolized the carrying trade between Europe and the Levant. The first expedition for territorial extension was undertaken in 997 and was remarkably successful. Town after town delivered itself to the protection of Italy, Venice, and only a few attempted to resist. Doge Ursulo was then made Duke of Dalmatia

7

and freed from his vassalage to the German Emperor Otto III, who made several other concessions. In 1006 the conquest of Hadria was accomplished because of some claims that its citizens made to Lured. And in 1084 the Greek Emperor renounced all claims to Dalmatia and granted free entrance to Venetian vessels.

On account of friendship between the Greek Emperor and herself, Venice was slow to take part in the crusades. About 1090, however, she entered the lists and largely partook of the benefits of the conquests. In 1115 Zara revolted and opened its gates to the King of Hungary, but were completely subdued by the Venetians. Three years later, however, the Hungarians again advanced and this time completely conquered Zara. In 1122 the Venetians were victorious in a long and bloody struggle against the Saracens, and then were granted a share in every city of the kingdom of Jerusalem, and many privileges. The sieges of Tyre and Bealun followed. Their participation in the crusades called down upon the Venetians the animosity of the Greek Emperor, who ordered Venetian commerce

to be interrupted and all merchant vessels to be captured. Hostilities were renewed by sacking Rhodes and Scio and the whole Archipelago and taking the choicest youths as slaves.

The year 1143 was marked by a short, successful campaign against Padua: and about this time Constantinople, threatened by the King of Sicily, sought to renew the alliance with Venice, who readily responded. In 1156 on the first double election to the Papedom Venice took up the cause of Alexander III. against Victor IV., who was supported by Frederick Barbarossa. The Venetians prepared for war against Greece, having been angered by the treachery of that country, but finally consented to treat. At the time, in order to raise money for the expected war, the chamber of Loans was formed, out of which grew the first bank of Venice. While waiting for negotiations with the Greeks, the plague broke out in Venetian winter quarters, and on account of it being carried to Venice by the troops the Doge was killed.

The form of election of the Doge was now changed. Out of "the Forty", chosen, nine of whom must agree, selected the Doge. The

General Assembly was changed to the Great Council, and out of this sixty men were chosen to assist the Doge. The Giunta, consisting of 25 or 30 members, was to assist on certain occasions. In 1435 this number was doubled and in the end the Senate consisted of 300 members. One man from each district formed the Signory, consisting of six members. When the constitution was matured the power was put into the hands of the Collegio, which had 26 members.

In 1167 the Lombard League was formed in favor of Alexander III as Pope. Venice at first remained neutral, then joined with Frederick in the siege of Ancona, jealous of that city's commercial prosperity. Ancona was freed, and shortly afterwards Venice became an inactive ally of the Lombard League. In 1177 Alexander was received in Venice with unbounded respect, and an embassy was sent to the Emperor, demanding that the Pope's pretensions be recognized. Frederick in return, demanded that the Venetians deliver Alexander up to him, or prepare for war. Venice chose the latter course. In the struggle which followed they were victorious,

in honor of which the Doge dropped a ring into the Adriatic with the words: "we wed thee with this ring, in token of our true and perpetual sovereignty". The ceremony was repeated on the day of the Feast of Ascension for many years. The reconciliation between Alexander III and Frederick was made at Venice and was very humiliating to the latter. The peace of Constance was signed 1178, and Venice was hailed as liberator of Italy and protector of the Holy See, while her alliance was sought and purchased by the Greeks.

At this time the office of procuratore was established. At first there was but one, afterwards 9, and finally 20. They were to superintend the Cathedral and Treasury of St. Mark, take legal guardianship of orphans and act as public executors but were not allowed to become members of the grand council.

Another change in the form of election occurred at this time. The Great Council appointed four commissioners, each of whom named ten electors, and these forty chose the Doge. *Provvedari* were also appointed and held many offices.

In 1192 Enrico Dandolo became Doge. The

Pisani made an unsuccessful attempt to seize Pola. Reilly was preaching the fourth crusade among the French nobles, who sent to Venice for aid. Venice promised to furnish them with ships and supplies, and in return was to receive from them 85000 marks. In 1202 the crusaders assembled at Venice, but being fewer than was expected they were unable to raise the 85000 marks required. In consideration of the delay in payment, the Venetians demanded that the crusaders, contrary to the Pope's injunctions, attack and gain back Zara from the Hungarians, before starting on the crusade. Accordingly Zara was attacked and surrendered. Alexius, the son of the dethroned and imprisoned Greek Emperor Isaac, proposed to the crusaders the restoration of his father to the throne. After some hesitation on account of the mandate of Innocent III, the crusaders took up the cause of the young prince and made a passage of the Bosphorus. After a partly successful attack they took possession of Constantinople. The Emperor fled by night and Isaac was again crowned, agreeing to

submission of the Holy See and to the payment
 of 200,000 marks. While the crusaders were
 still in Greece, Doukaiophlos usurped the
 throne and caused a renewal of hostilities.
 In this second siege the crusaders were also
 successful and the soldiers were allowed
 to pillage the city. It was at this time that
 the Latins obtained the four bronze horses, which
 have been in their possession ever since,
 except at short intervals. The empire was
 divided between the Latins and the
 French with Baldwin, Count of Flanders as
 Emperor. A vast territory fell to Venice,
 and her dogs received the title of "Doge of
 Romania and Lord of $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{1}{5}$ of the Roman
 Empire".

In 1205 after the capture of Baldwin I,
 by Traian, the jealous king of Bulgaria,
 the crusaders started homeward. Enrico Dandolo
 died on the way and his son Latino
 became the second Latin Patriarch of Constantinople.
 About 1207 the Latins began to realize that
 their eastern territory was too extensive,
 and granted possession of it to different
 citizens, to be held as fiefs of the Republic.
 In 1223 there was some talk of migration to

Constantinople, but the plan never materialized. In 1228 the first civil code was drawn up, which related to the descent of property, the recovery of debt and the punishment of crime; but strangely enough, there were but few regulations for trade. It introduced the law of calculating by percent. The Piazza of St. Mark was enlarged at this time and the first bridge built on the site of Rialto in 1246.

Ezzelino Romano, a wicked, tyrannical and ambitious Italian, held Verona, Modena, Padua and Parma under his government. The bishop of Ravenna preached a crusade against him among the Venetians in 1256.

They readily took up arms, and together with the fugitive Paduans, easily took Padua and opened the prisons. The war which followed lasted not less than three years - through his treachery. Ezzelino lost all his friends and was defeated and imprisoned, and died in 1259.

From this time dates the ~~commercial~~ beginning of the Genoese wars. The similarity of their governments and pursuits tended to enhance their commercial rivalry. So Venice claimed the dominion of the Adriatic

as Genoa claimed that of the Mediterranean and looked with alarm on the successes gained by her rival in the West and the Archipelago. The last straw was added in the dispute over their conflicting claims to the church of St. Sabba. Manfred of Sicily and the Pisans became the allies of Venice, and Genoa had as allies the Greek nobles and Palaeologus, who recaptured Constantinople but allowed the Venetians to remain in a quarter of the city which was still their government by a *Bailo*. They also conquered Cyprus, which was given to Genoa, and Scio, Lemnos and Rhodes. The war lasted 5 years and the Venetians were successful. In 1269 a truce but not a peace was made.

In 1268 the mode of election was made much more intricate, so as to avoid intrigue. The office of Grand Chancellor was established at this time.

In 1293, the war with Genoa was renewed. The Venetians burned Pera and ravaged Caffa but were completely defeated off the shores of Curzola, where the Genoese took 8000 prisoners and Andrea Dandolo prisoner, the former of whom spent his four years imprisonment in writing an account of his

adventures, and so excited the admiration and wonder of the Latins, that they released him. Peace was signed in 1299. The Venetian vessels were forbidden to enter the Black Sea or touch the coasts of Syria for 13 years.

In 1295 the closing of the Great Council began, and was continued step by step until the membership became permanent and hereditary, and only those enrolled in the Golden Book could become members. The three classes of nobility, besides illustrious foreigners were; the rich Nobles, called Signori; the moderately rich - *Miri di Mezzi*; and the poor, *Barnabati*.

In 1308 Ferrara was disputed between a brother Francesco and the son Fresco, of the late ruler. Venice took up arms in defence of the latter. Fresco proved to be unpopular to retain the throne and Venice claimed that it reverted to her. Clement V., the Pope at Avignon, also laid claims to Ferrara which Venice refused to recognize. Upon this Clement excommunicated the King and placed the state under an interdict. He then preached a crusade against Venice. The crusaders defeated the Venetians at Ferrara, they were proscribed throughout

Europe, and their merchants killed or sold to Infidels. Venice suffered from lack of commerce, no church services and the discontent of the entire people. A plot was formed against the life of the Doge, but was discovered, and the chief conspirators were put to death. To avoid a recurrence of such an event, the Council of the Ten was formed in 1325, which was given unlimited jurisdiction over every individual in the state. No two members could bear the same name. All inquiry, punishment and condemnation was secret. This council ruled Venice despotically for more than five centuries, and became very formidable especially to the Great Council. In 1311 the interdict was removed from Venice through the intercession of the ambassador Francesco Sordani, who became Doge in 1327.

Mastino Della Scala was in possession of Verona, Treviso, Vicenza, Brescia, Parma, Padua and several other cities. The Carrara Brothers, treacherous friends of the brother of Della Scala, formed an alliance with the Venetians for the

of Padua. The downfall of Della Scala was brought about, and in 1338 Venice was master of Treviso and Bassano, while Albertino Carrara was ruler of Padua and became very powerful. Zara once more revolted in 1343, and the Hungarians were ready to espouse their cause. The siege lasted 18 months, and the Venetians under Marino Faliero were gloriously victorious, Zara being compelled to surrender at discretion.

In 1348 Venice lost one half of her population in six months by the plague. In order to recruit her population, foreigners were allowed the rights of citizens after two years residence.

The third Genoese war broke out in 1349, and was brought about by a perfidious act of the Venetians. In the first battle, that of Negropont, the Venetians were successful, but this only served to make their rivals more persistent. Venice obtained some slight assistance from Anagnin and Constantinople. This combined fleet was destroyed on entering the Archipelago. In 1352 the allies under

Pisani approached the Bosphorus and were met by the Genoese under Doria. The battle might have been considered drawn had not Pisani been forced to retreat because of the disablement of his squadron. All Europe tried to intercede between the rivals, and Petrarch wrote many marvailing letters to the Doge begging for peace.

In the battle of Cagliari the Venetians were victorious. August 29, 1353 was about the brightest day of glory in the naval history of Venice. The discontented Genoese decided on a change of government, and Giovanni Visconti, Archbishop of Milan, who was already Lord of 17 powerful cities, was chosen Governor. Visconti at first sued for peace, but in vain. In the battle of Sapienza the Genoese were victorious and Pisani with 6000 men, were taken prisoners. Venice, unable to fit out more ships, obtained a truce of four months in 1355.

The conspiracy against the aristocracy, of the Doge Marino Faliero, who smarted under the oppression of the oligarchy, marked this

period. The plot was revealed and the doge was beheaded ~~on~~ the Giant Stairs.

In the year 1355 ~~out~~ 1356 another war with Hungary over Zara took place. The result was that Louis of Hungary compelled Venice to renounce all pretensions to sovereignty on the Eastern coast of the Adriatic. In 1364 the Venetian inhabitants of Candia revolted. Finding negotiations with them of no avail the Venetians sent a fleet of 33 galley and reduced the island, hanging many of the citizens. But the following year the war broke out again, then the island was completely conquered, the inhabitants killed and the place made a desert.

Francesco da Carrara had never forgiven an invasion of his territory by the Venetians during the Hungarian War. Consequently he formed a conspiracy with several Venetian nobles, to sacrifice the chief magistrates of the State. The intrigue was discovered by the vigilance of the Sen, and the conspirators punished. Some time later Marcilio plotted unsuccessfully with the Signory against the life of his brother Francesco. Before the close of 1378 the Venetians invaded

Padua and Hungary took up the cause of latter; but the allies were defeated and a peace was made in which the boundaries between Venice and Padua were settled by the former and Carrara agreed to pay 23000 ducats indemnity, besides 300 ducats annually to the treasury of St. Mark. He was also compelled to offer an oath of fidelity, and beg the pardon of the Republic on this knees. In 1376 Carrara made an unsuccessful attempt to raise the Austrians against Venice. 1376-77 marked the first use of the cannon by the Venetians.

The fourth and most bloody war between the Venetians and Genoese was brought about by trouble in Greece. The imprisoned son of the Greek Emperor had promised to send Genoa to the Genoese if they would help him to exchange places with his father (1376). This change of masters in Genoa was a matter of great importance to the Venetians. The imprisoned Emperor sought aid from the brave and adventurous Venetian youth Carlo Zeno, and immediately received. Genoa opened its gates to the Venetians who withstood two attacks of the Genoese, who finally returned to Constantinople. The Emperor was then restored to the throne. In 1379 a violent

discussion between Venice and Genoa and precedence in
 Cyprus led to its invasion by the Genoese. The Marquis di
 Carraro, Visconti and Venice allied themselves against
 Genoa, while the League formed against Venice, consisted
 of Carrara, the Genoese, the King of Hungary, the Patriarch
 of Aquileia, the Della Scala Brothers, the City of Ancona, the
 Duke of Austria and the Queen of Naples. The first naval
 battle was fought on May 1st at the mouth of the Lido and
 won by the Venetians. In the second, that of Pola the Genoese
 were victorious. Partly on account of this defeat, and partly
 on account of the jealousy his popularity excited, Pisani,
 the Venetian commander was recalled and imprisoned.
 On July 4th the Genoese entered lesser Chioggia, but soon
 returned to Zara, giving Venice time to fortify herself.
 On August 6th Chioggia was attacked and bravely defended.
 At the end of ten days Chioggia fell into the hands of the
 Genoese, who gave it over to Carrara. Venice, despairing,
 offered any negotiations that would allow her to remain
 independent, but in vain. August 19th Pisani was
 released from prison, and on the 23rd and 24th the Genoese
 were surprised by a fleet under the Doge and Pisani.
 Pisani cut off all escape from the invaders. On January 1st
 Carlo Zeno returned from the Levant, and by his aid
 Pisani's combined the Genoese were driven from
 Brondola and blockaded in Chioggia, where they
 could receive no aid. June 22nd the garrison

was forced to surrender, being reduced to 90 galleys and about 4300 prisoners. The war lasted a year longer but without any striking events. Pisani died on shipboard and Zeno took his place. All parties were now weary of the war. In May, 1381, Venice ceded Treviso to Austria. On August 5th a treaty signed, by which, among many other conditions each Republic was to retain most of its conquests. As a reward for the patriotism shown in this war 30 families were ennobled. In 1382 Carrara fought Treviso and from Austria, and soon after Venice and Antonio Della Scala of Verona formed an alliance to gain it back.

About the close of the 12th century the Visconti had established themselves in the sovereignty of Milan. Giovanni Galeazzo Visconti succeeded his father in 1378 to the Government of a part of Lombardy. He had quietly frustrated many plots against his life made by his uncle at Milan, but when the opportunity showed itself he had his uncle imprisoned with both of his sons, and united both divisions of Lombardy under his sway. Carrara allied himself to this treacherous and ambitious man on the condition that Verona should be conquered for Visconti and Vicenza for Carrara. The conquest was made in 1387, but Visconti kept both cities, and opened secret negotiations with Venice for the overthrow

of Padua. As a pledge of his fidelity, Visconti entrusted
 to Carlo and the government of Milan. In 1388
 Francesco da Carrara abdicated in favor of his son.
 Padua was surrendered by the treachery of the people
 and both of the Carraras were imprisoned. After the
 conquest of Treviso, Visconti placed his troops in the
 city; but the people favored the Venetians and compelled
 the Milanese to withdraw. Fully awakened to the
 treachery of Visconti, Venice suddenly changed her
 tactics and allied herself with Carrara for his restoration
 in Padua. In 1391 Florence and Bologna declared
 open war against Visconti. Carrara, now sure
 of the aid of these two cities and of the neutrality
 of Venice, sought and procured an alliance with
 the Duke of Bavaria, and by a coup de main regained
 Padua. In return for the secret help of Venice
 Carrara offered himself and his people as her children
 in 1392, and peace was established for a time with Visconti.

About this time a league was formed between, Genoa
 Hungary and Venice, for the protection of their
 commerce and also of the Greek Empire against
 the Turks. They procured the partial alliance of both
 England and France. In the battle of Nicopolis the
 confederates were defeated and the French troops
 entirely destroyed. At this time Visconti obtained
 the election of Milan into a duchy and an imperial

gief. He met a defeat at Mantua in 1399, which inclined him to listen to negotiations, and Venice obtained an unsubstantial truce for two years.

During the reign of Venice the privileges of the Doge were almost miserably limited by the aristocracy; he was no longer called "Monsignor" but simply "Messer il Doge." In the year 1412 Visconti died of the plague.

The second battle of Sapienza was fought in 1413 between the Genoese under Doria and the Venetians under Carlo Zeno, and was brought about by a treacherous act of the Genoese, who pillaged the Venetian town of Berytus in time of peace. The Venetians were victorious, and by the peace signed in 1414 Genoa was forced to pay an indemnity.

On the death of Visconti Carrara laid claim to Vicenza and took as his ally della Scala, who claimed Verona. The latter died soon after the conquest of Verona which reverted to his two treacherous sons. Milan surrendered Vicenza to the protection of Venice, who refused to negotiate with Carrara; and an unequal war broke out between Venice and Carrara. Padua was invested on June, 27th and soon after Verona capitulated. Venice offered Carrara terms of peace in which he should leave Padua. The latter refused. The city was betrayed into the

hands of the enemy and Carrara and his son were imprisoned at Venice and strangled in their dungeons by a decree of the Ven.

In 1420 Venice refused to join a league with Florence against Milan. But when Iscari became Duke in 1423, the desired union was brought about. Carmagnola a Milanese general fled to Venice and received command of the army. The campaign opened with the siege of Brescia, which capitulated November 20th. This was Galeazzo Visconti's chief disaster, and a peace was concluded in 1426 by which he gave up all claims to Brescia. In 1427 the Venetians were successful in the battle of Macco, and another peace was signed in the Spring of 1428. In 1431, however, the war was renewed and opened badly for Venice. The hesitancy of Carmagnola, and his suspected treachery caused him to be put to death in 1432 by a decision of the Senate.

Francesco Sforza was the son of a Milanese peasant, turned soldier of fortune. Through his courage and skill the father had obtained before his death the dignity of Grand Constable of Naples. His possessions and band of faithful soldiers, came into the hands of his son Francesco, who proved no less skillful, daring and fortunate. After Francesco was taken into the service of Milan, he aimed at no less a thing than

the throne, and received from Filippo-Maria Visconti
 the promise of his daughter Bianca in marriage.
 In order to obtain his own end Sforza wished to visit
 Visconti's fear. Therefore he took command of the
 Florentine army against Milan, until a truce was
 made between the two states, when he moved over to
 Venice; and when in 1439 a league was formed
 against Milan, between Rome, Florence, Genoa and
 Venice, Sforza was put in command of the confederate
 troops. In the beginning of this campaign which
 had been brought about by Visconti's perfidy, the
 Milanese besieged Brescia. The siege was long and
 hard but in 1441 Sforza succeeded in relieving her.
 Visconti now made Venice an unexpected offer of
 peace, which was received with great rejoicing; and
 offered to Sforza the hand of his daughter. After
 the death of Visconti in 1442 - Milan declared herself
 free, and Sforza, for fear of being too rash, contented
 himself with the command of her army. The
 first overtures of peace which the Milanese made
 to Venice, were refused. In the following campaign
 Sforza was eminently successful. He won a
 battle at Caravaggio. Peace was now advantageous
 to both parties. The terms between the two were
 as follows: Sforza agreed to surrender to Venice
 Cremona, Bergamo and Brescia; and in return

France promised to recognise him as successor of Visconti, and to furnish him men and money to aid him in attaining his pretensions. By 1449 all the promised fortresses were won; but at this juncture the Signory made peace with Milan and granted their ally only a small territory. This perfidy led to war (1450). Sforza besieged Milan which city received no aid from France. Disgusted with this inactivity of their ally, the Milanese finally acknowledged Sforza, Duke of Milan. In 1454, by the Treaty of Lodi the Signory also recognised this title.

In 1453, in the struggle between the Turks and Christendom, the loss of France, in spite of her neutrality amounted to 20000 ducats.

June 16th, 1454, marks the organization of the three *inquisitori di Stato*. They were elected by the Sen, and given unlimited power. No one connected in any way with the church could form one of this wicked and macabrous body. The inquisitors themselves were unknown, their spies were unknown and their statutes were secret. They allowed no intercourse between the nobles and any foreign ambassador. The ecclesiastics were especially watched and the Duke's palace was never free from spies. The Doge the members of the Sen or were the inquisitors.

themselves were never free from this terrible oversight. The lion's mouth at the head of the Giant Stairs ^{was} used for secret denunciations, and the mystery which surrounded the trials and executions was the chief cause of their uninterrupted power.

In 1462 a dispute with the Pacha of Athens over a fugitive slave, led to a war which spread all over the Morea. In the meantime Pope Pius II preached a crusade against the Turks which was not undertaken on account of the death of the Pope. The war continued to rage in Greece, for though Venice sincerely desired peace, she could not meet the enormous demands of Magnanet. The Venetians stormed and pillaged Athens which was retaken, and withstood five attacks upon Magnanet, but the sixth proved fatal. The Turks spread all over the Morea, into Dalmatia and back into Italy, almost to the Lagoon. In 1478 Croya capitulated. The siege of Scutari followed but was turned into a blockade. In 1478 the Plague broke out, and the Venetians felt that peace must be bought at any price. The Turks required Lemnos, Magnanet and Scutari with an indemnity.

In 1474 an alliance was brought about between the King of Cyprus and Venice through the marriage of the King to a daughter of St. Mark. On his death the Queen and Kingdom were given in charge to Venice,

who in 1489 persuaded the queen to abdicate in favor of the Republic.

In 1493 a Triple was formed between the Pope, Venice and Milan against Ferdinand of Naples, whose ever increasing preponderance they all feared. But Ludovico Sforza had little confidence in his new allies, and invited Charles VIII into Italy, who in 1495 occupied Naples, much to the consternation and fear of Venice. Even Milan was growing to fear this unchecked progress of the French, and a secret alliance was formed between the Emperor, Milan, Venice and Spain, for the expulsion of the French. Four fifths of the allied forces were troops in the pay of Venice under Francesco di Gonzaga, the rest were Milanese. In the battle of Fornova the French were victorious, but on account of their retreat, and the rich spoils they left behind, the Venetians claimed the victory. In 1497 Louis XII of France, who was descended from the Visconti, pressed his claims to Milan and was joined by Venice. Sforza's Swiss mercenaries proved treacherous and betrayed him into the hands of the French. He was imprisoned, and some historians claim, restored to the throne in 1512.

At the close of the XVth century Venetian commerce was at its height, the monopoly of trade was still almost entirely in their hands. Their silk, linen

and cloth manufactures were scarcely equalled in the world, and their liquors, confections and wax tapers were of great renown. The glass houses of Murano furnished luxuries to both the civilized and savage. The possessions of the Republic at this time were Ravenna, Treviso, Padua, Vicenza, Verona, Crema, Brescia and Bergamo. Friuli connected Venice with Istria; Taro, Spoleto and the Dalmatic islands with Albania; Zante and Corfu with Greece and the Morea, and the islands in the Archipelago with Candia and Cyprus. France and Germany though pretending to be on the most friendly terms with the Republic, were contemplating her dismemberment and signed a treaty at Blois to that effect. Venice at first adhered to France and gained a victory over the Emperor Maximilian at Cadore in 1508. But by signing a truce for three years with Germany she made enemies of both countries. Venice had aroused the anger of Pope Julius II by bestowing the bishopric of Vicenza on one whom he opposed. The Pope roused the French and Germans against Venice and the league of Cambrai was formed by the three powers. Ferdinand of Aragon also joined the league. In 1509 the Pope regretting his rash step, offered to withdraw from the league and to do all in his power to turn aside the war if Venice would surrender to him the provinces

he claimed. Venice refused and Louis declared war. D'Alviara, one of the Venetian Officers, engaged in the battle of Agnadella, and though at first successful was finally defeated and taken prisoner. It was not long before all the towns allotted to the French in the Treaty of Cambrai had submitted and some claimed by the Emperor. Cremona alone held out. In spite of the disastrous condition of Venetian affairs at this time, the people and Senate showed wonderful wisdom, energy and foresight. The Signory freed all the towns from their oath of allegiance, and then begged absolution of the Pope, surrendering to him Ravenna. Julius II softened, Germany became languid, but refused to treat without France. Louis returned to France, satisfied. Fieris, staunch to Venice, drove the German garrison from the city. The Paduans called upon the Venetians to help them drive out the German garrison. Maximilian now marched back into Italy with an immense army. The siege of Padua lasted 15 days and was finally raised. After this Venice gained back many of her former possessions, and Maximilian offered a truce, which she refused. By the time he had reached Trent the Venetians had established themselves under the walls of Verona. In 1510 a reconciliation was made between Venice and the Pope. In the

same year, however, the war was renewed, and Maximilian chased the Venetian troops from the banks of the Adige and Brenta. Venice was defeated in almost every battle of this cruel war.

October 5th, 1511, the Holy League was formed against the French, between the Pope, Venice and Ferdinand of Aragon. The Emperor and King Henry VIII. were invited to join it. The French were in command of Gaston de Foix and were victorious at Bologna in 1512 and at Ravenna the booty gained by them being estimated at about 300000 crowns. On the 11th of April, the French were gloriously victorious in the battle of Ravenna; in which battle Gaston de Foix was killed. To add to the grief and discouragement of the army on account of this want, Henry VIII. joined the League, and Maximilian prolonged his time and allowed 2000 Swiss to cross his territory to join 10000 Venetian troops in Lombardy. June 28th they started back to France. Thus the emancipation of Northern Italy began; and a few scattered castles was all that remained to the French. Venice only obtained Bergamo and Cremona, for the Pope and the Emperor both wished to humiliate the Republic. Accordingly the Treaty of Blois was concluded March 14, 1513, between France and Venice, by which each pledged herself to remain in arms until both had gained back their

former possessions. Milan was soon conquered, but in the battle of Novara the French were completely routed, and immediately returned to France. D'Abruzzi, the Venetian commander, retreated to Padua which was successful against a siege of 18 days, and in revenge the opposing army ravaged all the surrounding country. On January 10, 1514, a fire broke out in Venice in which not less than 2000 houses were consumed, the loss of the one night equalling the cost of the whole campaign. On January 1st, 1515, Pope Leo X. sent an embassy to Venice to warn them from their allegiance to France and to beg them to give up their claim to Verona. But in vain. Francis I. renewed the treaty of Blois, assumed the title of the Duke of Milan, and agreed to appear in arms on the banks of the Adige inside four months. The first battle after the fulfilment of this promise, was Marignano, in which the allies were victorious, after a furious struggle. Milan again surrendered to the French. The Pope now made peace with Venice, ceding to her Brescia and his share in Verona, and also with the French, who returned home. In 1516 Maximilian again entered Italy but missed all of his opportunities, and fell back into Trent. The Venetians secured Bergamo and Brescia,

and would have attained Verona, but for the growing coolness of the French, who were negotiating with Charles V. of Spain. By a treaty at Cognac signed August 13th, arrangements were made for the pacification of Italy. Verona was restored to Venice. The struggle had lasted 8 years, and Venice came out of it apparently powerful and largely increased in glory. Her borders were Cremona, the borders of the Adige and Romagna, her national debt was 4,000,000 ducats.

Now began the almost imperceptible decline of Venice. Africa could now be bought. The Portuguese and Genoese discoveries deprived her of the monopoly of commerce. Her manufactures on Terra Firma had been destroyed by the war, and her salt-works were shared by the Holy See. However, every effort was made to preserve the state from ruin, and the Signory decided on neutrality in war as far as possible. In the beginning of the war between Charles V. and Francis I., Venice declared in favor of the latter, but soon changed their allegiance to Charles. It was not long, however, before Venice signed with Rome, Florence and England the treaty of Cognac, openly allying themselves with France. The allies suspected Charles of trying to make himself Duke of Milan, in the war which followed, the allies were very sanguine,

while Charles was very fierce and energetic. After
 15 years of tedious, and, for the Venetians,
 inglorious warfare, peace was restored to Italy
 by the Treaty of Cambrai. Venice was not
 formally included in the treaty, but Charles
 granted peace to her, and, giving up his conquests in
 Lombardy, received in return the Neapolitan ports.
 This treaty was signed at Bologna January, 1530.

The death of Sforza roused all the former
 claimants to his crown; (1535) but Venice merely
 maintained an armed neutrality. In order
 to gain the alliance of the Republic, France urged
 the Ottomans to war against her. The Infidels
 attacked and ravaged Corfu, and then scourged
 every island in the Archipelago, Venice herself
 barely escaping. In 1538, the Pope and Charles I
 allied themselves with Venice against the Turks. The
 struggle was languid and December 20th an
 unequal treaty was signed by which the Turks got
 several fortresses and 300000 ducats indemnity.

Thirty years of peace followed, a period which
 was very favorable to the cultivation of the arts.
 Palladio and Scamozzi adorned the Capitol with rich
 and beautiful architecture. The Florentine Sam-
 sovino erected the Mint, and the Library of St. Mark,
 the Procuratie Nuova, and sculptured statues of Mars

and Neptune, which guard the Giant Stairs. The glory of the Venetian school of coloring was brought to its height in this period, by Titian, Tintoretto and Paolo Veronese, who designed and painted the first historical pictures in the Hall of the Great Council. Titian received as a reward an appointment to the Office of La Traseria in Fondaca de Tedeschi, the fresco on the front of which was painted by him. His salary in this Office was 300 crowns, and he was bound to paint the head of each successive Doge for eight crowns a piece. He resigned when 79 years old, but lived and painted for 20 years more, when he died of the plague. Titian was fully appreciated by his countrymen. A simple gravestone in the church of Frari marked his resting place. In 1792 Canova was instructed to prepare a tomb. But the design proved cold and unresponsive, and on his death it was placed at his tomb in the church of Frari.

In the year 1566 Selim II became Sultan. He was young and ambitious for war and his desires were fixed on the island of Cyprus. Venice at this time was afflicted with various domestic disasters, as failure of the harvest, and an immense conflagration. The damage done was overestimated in Constantinople, and Selim decided that this was the time to strike.

The former gained Cyprus and Sapots and 100000 ducats from Venice within the next three years.

In 1575 the plague broke out in Venice and not less than 40000 lives were lost. Doge Mocenigo took a vow that when the pestilence left them, he would found and dedicate, in the name of the Republic, a church of the Redeemer. We are told that amendment immediately commenced. In 1576 the Piazza di San Marco was completed; in 1587 a stone bridge of the Rialto was begun. In 1589 new prisons were built. During this time Venice had very few and unimportant relations with other countries. In 1589 an alliance was signed between France and Venice. In 1605 Paul V. became Pope, and troubled himself on account of two ecclesiastics whom the Signory had imprisoned. Upon the refusal of the Venetians to release them, Paul promulgated a bull. The Signory recalled her ambassador from Rome, declared the bull null and void, and forbade the clergy to obey it. Venice went so far as to threaten to withdraw from her connection with Holy See. A papal bull did not have the weight of former days. Venice and the Pope prepared for war; but finally Paul employed France as mediator. Though Venice did not consent to any of the demands of the Pope, except to hand the two prisoners over

to France, the interdict was removed, but without any signs of joy in Venice.

The Uecchi were a race of pirates on Austrian territory and supposed to be supported by Austria. In 1613 they had captured a galley under Veniers and killed the crew. The indifference of Austria caused the Venetians to turn against them! The contest was glorious for both parties. The Republic had found an ally in Holland against Spain, with whom she expected an open breach. Consequently, during this war, 4000 Dutch troops were stationed in Venice, and had it not been for their fidelity, Venice might then have become a dependence of the United Provinces. France adjusted both the dispute between Venice and Spain and that between Venice and Austria, and the Treaty of Madrid was signed, the most important terms of which stipulated for the complete dispersion of the Uecchi.

In 1617 it was reported that Spain was plotting to transfer the Venetian Republic to the Spanish crown. There was much doubt as to the truth of the report, but from fear of the impending danger more than 300 French and Spanish were sent.

By this time the Turs were gradually losing their power. Their methods were very wicked and to the members of the Great Council, who wished to

reduce them. Several mistaken executions had proved that they were not infallible. On their re-election in 1625, there was some talk of doing away with the body altogether, but it came to naught.

In 1644 a Turkish vessel was captured by some Maltese galleys and anchored off Candia, the prisoners being detained. In revenge for this outrage the Sultan Ibrahim attacked Candia. The war lasted 24 years. In the first campaign the Turks took Khania after a siege of 57 days. For the reparation of this loss, the citizens were taxed and offices were sold. In this way 50 new patricians came into existence.

France and Spain both sent reinforcements to Venice, and in the naval battles she was mostly successful; but Retz yielded to the Turks, and they next commenced the siege of Troy. At this time a revolution broke out in Constantinople, Ibrahim was dethroned and his son placed on the throne. The Signory proposed terms of peace to the new Sultan, which were laughably refused. The war continued. At sea the Venetians won many victories, their loss being very slight. In 1648 they received much valuable aid from Louis XIV of France and from the Duke of Savoy. Cromwell promised a great deal, but did nothing. In 1647 the siege of

Candia began in earnest. The Venetian troops were under Morosini. In six months there were 17 sorties and 32 assaults attempted, and 618 mines sprung, one of which alone is said to have killed 1000 men. Two expeditions of impetuous young Frenchmen set out to relieve Candia. Each made an unsuccessful sortie and returned to France. After the return of the latter expedition the French were discouraged and sent no more aid. This was the signal for the Papal and Imperial troops to withdraw. Thus deserted, Morosini was forced to negotiate, making his capitulation a peace. He surrendered all of Candia except three forts and retained his conquests in Dalmatia.

After the Turks were overthrown by John Sobieski in 1684, Venice hastened to conclude an alliance against the Turks, with Poland, Austria and the Czar. Morosini was generalissimo, and in three campaigns gained possession of the whole of the Morea except the city of Malvasia. He then occupied Lepanto, Patras and other strongholds and conquered Athens, carrying to Venice the ~~four~~ ^{two} marble lions, which still stand at the gates of the arsenal. In 1699 the league accepted the mediation of England with the Porte, and by the peace of Carlowitz the Morea ceded to Venice. In the war of the Spanish succession,

which lasted from 1700 to 1713, Venice remained neutral, but her provinces were invaded and her vessels captured. The Turks did not intend to surrender the Morea without a struggle, and in 1713 the war was renewed. Before the close of 1715 Venice was stripped of her last possession in the East. In 1714 with the alliance of the Emperor they succeeded in recovering Salunatia. In 1716 the siege of Corfu lasted 42 days and finally was raised. In the following year the Venetians proposed the recapture of the Morea, but the Emperor signed the Treaty of Passarowitz with the Turks, permanently ceding it to them on July 21, 1718. The dominions of Venice at this time, and until her fall, were: the original Dogado, and, on Terra Firma, Bergamo, Brescia, Crema, Garona, Vicenza, the Paleina of Rovigo and the March of Friess, Triuli and Istria, part of Salunatia and Albania, Corfu, Paxo, Sta. Mousa, Istria, Zanti, Acro, the Straphades and Cerigo. The population of all these in 1788 was 300000, and in Venice alone 149,476.

From 1761-1779 there were constant struggles between the Plebe and the nobility, in which the former came out victorious. This period marked the steady decline of the Republic. The people were entirely given over to pleasure

and iniquity. The carnival often occupied the greater portion of the year, and at this time the most atrocious crimes could be committed by the most sanctified persons under cover of the mask. Venice disregarded the coming storm and convinced herself that there was safety in neutrality. Her people had lost their vigour, their ambitions and their love of glory, and were daily becoming more frivolous and wicked.

Napoleon's victories in Italy brought him to the borders of the Republic. He threatened to burn Verona if the gates were not opened to him, and thereupon the terrified Signory submitted. Napoleon twice offered alliance to Venice, who refused. In 1796 Prussia offered alliance to this she also very unwisely refused. By 1797 all Northern Italy was in the hands of Napoleon and Austria was forced to negotiate. The conferences of Soben then opened, and Bergamo, Brescia, Salo and Crema renounced their allegiance to Venice. Bonaparte demanded of her 1000000 francs as a monthly subsidy. The people of Verona now rose in arms and massacred all the French in the city; the tumult lasted four days, until French reinforcements came, and also an announcement that the preliminaries of peace with the Emperor were signed.

Bonaparte demanded that all French prisoners
 be released and all enemies of France forgiven;
 that the British minister be dismissed, the
 populace disarmed and allowed to choose
 between England and France. Napoleon
 demanded the Admiral of Lido and the Inquisitors
 of State in reparation for a vessel that was
 fired at Lido. Venice had never been in a
 better condition for war, but the government
 was so degraded, and the nobles so weak and
 cowardly that resistance was impossible. Two
 meetings of the highest magistrates of the city were
 held in the chambers of the Doge on April 30 and
 May, 2. On May 12, the assembly were so
 terrified at a few musket shots, that they rushed
 to the vote. 512 out of 529 votes were for surrender-
 ing to the French, and the oldest government
 in the world which had completed its
 eleventh century, was no longer in existence.
 In October, by the treaty of Campo Formio,
 Austria obtained Istria, Dalmatia, Venice and
 the rest of the Dogado, for her cession of the low
 countries; France claimed the Ionian islands,
 and Bergamo, Brescia and other parts of Terra
 Firma were annexed to the Cisalpine Republic.
 January, 5th, 1798 the Austrians entered upon their

new possessions.

Venice has been regarded at all times and by all people as the scene of beauty, luxury and romance. Poets have sung her praises, artists have idealised her, and historians have never tired of dwelling upon her charms. Monarchs and nobles, who visited her at her height, went away charmed by the grace of her people, and the bewildering, romantic loveliness of her moorlit canals and magnificent old palaces. Combined with this was power. Power such as to excite the jealousy of many a monarch who could not raise his country to the level of this little state. No country could vie with her in commerce, few in manufactures, and even now she is often referred to as the Queen of the Adriatic. The peculiarity of her government, the intriguing and perfidious Signory, the mysterious and wicked Council of the Ten, and the still more mysterious and wicked Inquisitors of State, give to the history of Venice a place apart from that of any other state or nation in the world.

ARCH
Fac/ sh/ Al
Publ.
G1825v